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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4278
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCNISL/ISLAMIC COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHLA/AMCONSUL BARCELONA PRIORITY 3302
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0413

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 000175

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

USUN FOR LAURIE SHESTACK
EUR/FO FOR FARAH PANDITH
IO/UNP FOR ANNELIESE REINEMEYER
EUR/PGI (COOK, ELDRIDGE, WEINSTEIN, KAMGAR)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/15/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [KISL](#) [UN](#) [SP](#)
SUBJECT: SPANISH POLDIR REQUESTS FULFILLMENT OF AOC
COMMITMENT

REF: A. MADRID 52
[1](#)B. STATE 4482
[1](#)C. 2007 STATE 171224
[1](#)D. 2007 MADRID 2295
[1](#)E. 2007 MADRID 2046

Classified By: DCM Hugo Llorens for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

(C) During a February 13 meeting on an unrelated topic, Spanish Political Director Rafael Dezcallar told the Charge that he felt obliged to again state Spain's great disappointment over the USG's inability to fulfill its commitment to the Alliance of Civilizations (AoC) and lack of high-level participation at the First Forum in Madrid in January (refs A-C). He noted that Spain had contributed to the BMENA/MEPI Foundation for the Future almost three years ago under the understanding and gentleman,s agreement that the U.S. would be able in some way to support the Alliance of Civilizations. He said that U.S. inability to keep its word two years later had left a bad taste within the GOS, adding that the Spanish have always perceived the U.S. to be "straight shooters," but not in this case. He said that the First Forum in Madrid was a largely successful event and that the Alliance had certain possibilities to make progress on issues of great concern to the U.S. He said that the AoC was the most high-profile international effort to address these concerns, and the U.S. should want to be a part of it. Noting U.S. concerns about the initiative, Dezcallar said that the period of time in which this initiative was in development should have been sufficient to allow for a minimum of political confidence and trust in Spain and Turkey to manage the AoC properly. Dezcallar repeated the GOS request that the U.S. fulfill its commitment in the shortest possible term. The Charge acknowledged GOS concerns, reiterated our intent to fulfill the commitment, and undertook to pursue the issue while in Washington later this month.
AGUIRRE